

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4433

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: OPENING OF US TRADE CENTER

REF: STATE 219504

1. MR. DOBBIN SPOKE TO SEVERAL REPORTERS AT THE TRADE CENTER JUST BEFORE THE OFFICIAL OPENING NOV 4. AT THAT TIME HUSHANG MEHR AYIN, ECONOMIC REPORTER OF KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, ASKED FOR AND WAS GRANTED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY MR. DOBBIN.

2. MEHR AYIN ASKED QUESTION RE PREFERENCES IN CONTEXT OF EARLIER CUTBACKS IN US EXPORTS OF SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH AFFECTED IRAN, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES. MEHR AYIN REPORTED THIS INTERCHANGE WITH MR. DOBBIN AS INDICATED BELOW.

3. "IRAN IS BOUND TO RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES IN VIEW OF ITS HIGH STANDING AMONG THAT COUNTRY'S FOREIGN TRADING PARTNERS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, TILTON H. DOBBIN, TOLD ME LAST NIGHT.

4. "SUCH TREATMENT COULD BE UTILIZED BY IRAN AT TIMES WHEN SHORTAGES OF RAW MATERIAL IN THE WORLD MARKET MIGHT PROMPT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO BE SELECTIVE IN ALLOCATION OF SCARCE SUPPLIES, DOBBIN SAID.

5. "HE HASTENED TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT SO FAR NO EMERGENCIES HAVE HAPPENED TO FORCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT SUCH AN ACROSS-THE-
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BOARD SELECTIVE POLICY. COUNTRIES IMPORTING SUPPLIES FROM THE

UNITED STATES HAVE NOW CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THEM IN PROPORTION TO THE VOLUME OF THEIR PREVIOUS ORDERS.

6. "...HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO BASIC OBJECTION IN THE UNITED STATES TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR BILATERAL TRADE EXCHANGES. HOWEVER, SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS."

HELMS

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